SHRI R.L. JALAPPA : The Jute Corporation of India's activities cannot be diversified. They cannot go to the market and sell it.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : But the Jute Corporation of India is not being allowed . . . *(Interruptions)*.

MR. SPEAKER : Maybe you get some answers in the next question.

Import Duty on Textile Machinery

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*584. SHRI CHHITUBHAI GAMIT :
SHRI MANIKRAO HODLYA GAVIT :

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :'

(a) the number of textile processing units functioning in the country, State-wise;

(b) whether the Textiles Ministry has suggested a drastic cut in import duty on textile machinery in order to facilitate modernisation of the weaving and processing sectors which would result in production of high value added items; and

(c) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI R.L. JALAPPA): (a) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

(b) and (c) With a view to providing access to state-of-the art technology, suggestions for appropriate modifications in fiscal duties in respect of certain items have been made so as to help the Indian textile industry to improve productivity, production and quality and become more competitive.

Statement

Sr. No.	State	No. of Processing Units
1	2	3
1.	Punjab	315
2.	New Delhi	200
3.	U.P.	69
4.	Rajasthan	1746
5.	Haryana	155
6.	Maharastra	166
7.	Gujarat	511
8.	Madhya Pradesh	31
9.	Tamil Nadu	3403
10.	Pondicherry	13
11.	Kerala	75
12.	Karnataka	184
13.	Andhra Pradesh	117
14.	West Bengal	730
15.	Bihar	560
16.	Orissa	4069
17.	Assam	155
18.	Arunachal Pradesh	1
19.	Maghalaya	54
20.	Tripura	42

[Translation]

SHRI CHHITUBHAI GAMIT : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Part B and C of the reply, given by the Minister are not clear. He said that with a view to provide access to "State-of--the art technology, suggestions for appropriate modifications in fiscal duties in respect of certain items have been made so as to help the Indian Textile Industry to improve productivity, production and quality and become more competitive.

This reply is not correct. What concrete decision has been taken in that. Will the hon'ble Minister be pleased to state about the concrete decision to be taken in this regard ?

My Second question is that whether the Government have any plan to sell the surplus land owned by the Textile Mills. If so, whether the money received as a result there off will be spent on the same mill of same State ?

[English]

SHRI R.L. JALAPPA : Sir, Selling the properties and investing them in machinery is a different question altogether. That matter pertains to N.T.C. not to this Question. The question is very clear and very simple. I have given the State-wise details about the number of textile processing units functioning in the country. I have also given the answer whether the Textile Ministry has suggested a drastic cut in import duty or not.

MR. SPEAKER : I agree with you.

[Translation]

Have you asked second question ?

SHRI MANIKRAO HODLYÀ GAVIT : Mr. Speaker Sir, I had only asked that what decision has been taken in this regard.

My second supplementary is that machinery of textile mills is outdated now, with the result production of cloth is now on a declining trend and whether the Govt. propose to talk coments decision to raving these sick mills if not, the reasons therefor.

[English]

SHRI R.L. JALAPPA : Though it does not pertain to this question, I am prepared to answer it. We have, now, proposed a Technology Modernisation Fund. That is going to come into existence. In the Seventh Plan there was a fund to the tune of Rs. 750 crore for modernisation. It was not there in the Eighth Plan. Now, we are proposing this technology Upgradation Fund.

[Translation]

SHRI BANWARI LAL PUROHIT : Mr. Speaker Sir, the government in its abruptly taken decision has decided to reduce the customs duty on the machinery imported now a days and during these 25 years there has been a lot of development in the textile machinery manufacturing industry of our country. But their sudden drastic cut has ruined our all imported machinery and textile machinery manufacturing Industry. Whether Government has taken a note of this that the way these people are making a drastice cut in the customs duty on the dictates of a particular capitalist lobby that has ruined our whole industry you must take care of the indigenous industries too.

MR. SPEAKER : Whether you have asked your question ?

[English]

SHRI R.L. JALAPPA : Sir, we are not importing machinery at the cost of our indigenous machinery. We are encouraging import of machinery only in those areas where we do not have proper machinery to face the coming onslaught of world competition. Now, I will give you some figures. As regards shuttleless looms Korea has installed 73,584, China has 56,117, Taiwan has 32,812, Indonesia has 25,716, and Thailand has 10,769 between 1985 and 1994. These are the countries which are competing with us in garment industry and also in textile industry in the world market. In India we have only 7,388 such looms. Should we not encourage the import of these machinery?

Regarding Rapier/Projectile/Airjet/Waterjet looms, Korea has installed 12,910 China has 6,480, Taiwan has 1,507 Indonesia has 3,592, Thailand has 642 and India has only 746. We have recommended to the Ministry of Finance that in order to face the stiff competition in the coming years we should upgrade our technology in the area of weaving, processing and also garment industry.

So, we have recommended to the Finance Ministry to reduce the import duty. We have also recommended to see that at least for one or two years these machineries which are not produced in our country are imported without any import duty.

Disinvestment Commission

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*587. DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI :
SHRI P.R. DASMUNSI :

Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to empower the Disinvestment Commission to take final decisions with regard to disinvestment in Public Sector Undertakings;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith important features of policy of disinvestment;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor;

(d) the recommendations made by the Disinvestment Commission in its first report;

(e) whether his Ministry has referred more PSUs to the Commission; and

(f) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) to (f) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) to (c) The Disinvestment Commission has been conceived of and is an Advisory Body. No change in its role is considered necessary.

(d) to (f) The Disinvestment Commission in its first report has, inter-alia suggested the strategies for disinvestment in three PSUs, namely, Gas Authority of India, India Tourism Development Corporation and Modern Food Industries Limited. Ten more companies as per Annexure have been referred to the Disinvestment Commission for advice.

Annexure

1. Hindustan Vegetable Oils Corporation Ltd.